

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 25-27, 29-32, 35, 39, 44, 49 and 52-57 are pending in this application. Claims 1-12, 35, 39 and 49 are withdrawn. The Office Action rejects claim 34 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; rejects claims 23, 28, 33, 34, 40, 43, 47 and 51 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b); and rejects claims 23-25, 34, 40, 43, 44, 47 and 48 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). By this Amendment, claims 23-24, 28, 33, 34, 40, 43, 47-48 and 51 are cancelled; claims 26, 29, 31 and 32 are amended into independent form; claims 25 and 44 are amended to properly depend from claim 26; and new claims 52-57 are added. No new matter is added.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 34 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for allegedly being indefinite. By this Amendment, claim 34 is cancelled.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 23, 28, 33, 34, 40, 43, 47 and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Smotkin (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0031695). By this Amendment, claims 23, 28, 33, 34, 40, 43, 47 and 51 are cancelled.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 44 and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as having been obvious over Smotkin in view of Kearn (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0155335). By this Amendment, claim 44 is amended to depend from allowable independent claim 26, and claim 48 is cancelled

Claims 23-25, 34, 40, 43 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as having been obvious over Shibata et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0098404) in view of Champion (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0235753). By this Amendment,

claims 23-24, 34, 40, 43 and 47 are cancelled; and claim 25 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of intervening claim 24 and depend from allowable independent claim 26.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

IV. New Claims

New claims 52-54 correspond to the subject matter of claim 25 and are dependent from allowable independent claims 29, 31 and 32 respectively. New claims 55-57 correspond to the subject matter of claim 44 and are dependent from allowable independent claims 29, 31 and 32 respectively.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:STD/std

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: March 18, 2008

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